

A RESOLUTION HONORING ABBY
WALTER, LEGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER OF
GRASS LAKE, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Abby Walter, winner of the 2000 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Abby is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Abby is an exceptional student at Grass Lake High School and possesses an impressive high school record.

Abby has received numerous awards for her excellence in academics as well as her involvement in band. Outside of school, she has received many awards for her involvement in 4-H.

Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Abby Walter for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

HONORING ERICA VASQUEZ

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the efforts of Erica Vasquez to raise funds for the Leukemia Society of America by running a marathon in Walt Disney World. She represented a 7-year-old boy, Adam Valencia, who has acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Erica was the youngest runner on the Team in Training Desert Mountain States Chapter, training for five months and raising money to compete. She even created her own donation forms and sent them out to businesses, doctors, lawyers, friends, and family members. Though they could not run with her, she gave them an important opportunity to do their part.

Sadly, Erica was inspired to help others because of a personal loss: in one year, she lost two cousins and an aunt to cancer. This tragedy inspired her to fight the disease any way she could. Her immediate goal is to increase awareness about Leukemia. Until a cure is found, people like Erica will continue to fight in whatever way they can, including increasing education about cancer and fundraising for treatment.

Please join me in celebrating the generous heart of Erica Vasquez, a young woman who

fight to bring awareness about a disheartening disease to the world. May her resilient spirit of giving encourage to us all to give of ourselves to save lives.

ESTONIAN PRESIDENT LENNART MERI HONORED BY THE CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the Congress of the United States is honoring President Lennart Meri of the Republic of Estonia at a special reception here in the Capitol Building paying tribute to the contribution of the United States to the freedom of the Baltic states. Sixty years ago, in 1940 as World War II raged in Europe, the Baltic nations—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—lost their freedom, first falling under Soviet control, then Nazi German occupation, and then again under Soviet dominance.

For half a century—from 1940 until 1990 when the Baltic states regained their independence—the United States government refused to recognize the occupation of the Baltic states. This policy of non-recognition was a public affirmation of the right of these three nations to their independence. When the Soviet Union collapsed ten years ago, the American people joined in the celebration as Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia once again emerged as independent and democratic states.

It is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we mark today the six decades of American support for the independence of the Baltic States. It is particularly noteworthy that President Lennart Meri is here in the United States to join us in celebrating a decade of renewed independence for Estonia.

Mr. Speaker, President Lennart Meri's life mirrors the tragedy and pathos of the Estonian and Baltic struggle for national independence and democracy. As a young man, President Meri and his family were deported to Siberia along with thousands of other Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians. It is particularly noteworthy that we are holding this celebration today, because today is the anniversary of the date that Lennart Meri and his family were expelled from Estonia and forcibly taken to Siberia—June 14, 1941.

Later, after returning to Estonia, President Meri graduated cum laude from Tartu University. Unable to practice his profession as a historian, he traveled to the most remote areas of the Soviet Union, where he wrote and produced films on the cultures of small ethnic groups. Meri's literary works, films and translations contributed significantly to the preservation of the Estonian national identity.

Lennart Meri's shift of focus from literary to political activities took place in 1988 when he established the non-governmental Estonian Institute to establish cultural contacts with the countries of the West. These Estonian cultural missions, established under his auspices, became embassies of Estonia when the country formally regained its independence in 1991.

Lennart Meri was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on April 12, 1990, following Estonia's first non-communist elections in over fifty years. He established formal diplomatic contacts with countries of Europe, the United

States, and other nations, and he represented Estonia at a number of international conferences. He also served briefly as Estonia's ambassador to Finland. On October 6, 1992, Lennart Meri was elected President of the Republic of Estonia, and in September 1996 he was reelected to this position.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending a special warm welcome to President Lennart Meri of Estonia.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL MCCANN

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate the 225th Birthday of the United States Army, to recognize Ethel McCann, who dedicated 38 years of service to the Department of the Army. Although, Mrs. McCann retired on December 29, 1999, she remains a part of the Army family.

For the last 26 years of her employment, Mrs. McCann served in the Army House of Representatives Liaison Office. In that capacity, Mrs. McCann was a dedicated and reliable resource person for Members of Congress and their staff. At the time of her retirement, it was estimated that she had responded to more than 125,000 inquiries from Congressional Offices.

Mrs. McCann touched the lives of thousands of service members and their families during the 38 years that she was a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. She can be justifiably proud of her many achievements. On this day of celebration for the Army, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Ethel McCann on her service to our Country and to extend to her best wishes in her retirement in Florida.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 90 ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 90 of New Haven, Connecticut as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

Chartered January 1, 1900, fifteen electrical tradesmen established what has since become one of the most respected union organizations across the State of Connecticut. Historically, union members have been challenged by communities to prove that, as tradesman, they deserved respect and a better quality of life for their labor and skills. Throughout its century of history, Local 90 has expanded its jurisdiction—reaching out to other communities, protecting the interests of electrical tradesman through much of Central and Southern Connecticut.

I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a country that allows its workers to engage in efforts to better employee standards